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PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

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Date Sent: 22 November 1958

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FROM: Anembassy TEHRAN

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SECOND LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

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Using Iraqi November 17 proclamation claiming inter alia 12 mile territorial sea (Baghdad tel 1622 to Dept) as peg on which hang discussion, Embassy broached substance ref tel to ForOff working level officer principally concerned (and most informed) with UN affairs (Mohamad Ali MOSHIRI). Moshiri, saying he expressed personal opinion, replied in most general terms saying big powers (citing US, USSR, UK) regarded question territorial sea as political question whereas smaller nations (citing Iceland) approached it from economic viewpoint. Such reasoning, in Embassy view, could lead to Iranian position willing to accommodate unilateral extensions when economic necessity, even if implausible, claimed.

Regarding date and venue second conference (Depcirtel 493), no reply yet received though U.S. position has been communicated ForMin HERMAT, PolDirGen AFSHAR (now absent), and Moshiri.

Moshiri promised convey any developments.

WAILES

AGNowakowski, Jr.:cmn
11/20/58

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